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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/598,557	06/21/2000	Jeffrey G. Bingham	10001261-1	6684

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EXAMINER

GHEE, ASHANTI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2626

DATE MAILED: 03/12/2004

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/598,557

Applicant(s)

BINGHAM ET AL.

Examiner

Ashanti Ghee

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 June 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: "lower surface 126" on page 4, line 30. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The phrase "in a mating feature" was not described in any section of the specification. The Examiner is unclear as to the meaning of this phrase. Does it possibly mean that the edge registration surface and the registration element must go "hand in hand?" Please provide a detailed explanation as to the meaning of this phrase.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-2, 4-9, and 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hokamura (US Patent No. 5,328,166).

Regarding claim 1, Hokamura discloses a printer comprising: a media tray (recording paper cassette 40) with a media support surface (recording paper supporting plate 44) and a media edge registration surface (side-edge regulating plates 42 read on media edge registration surface; col. 4, lines 14-66), a removable media holder (recording paper cassette, which includes the container portion 41, is detachably engaged) having a lower portion (recording papers form the bottom) contacting (supporting in the context of this reference reads on contacting) the media support surface (44; col. 2, lines 65-68 and col. 4, lines 14-66); and the holder (41) defining (col. 5, lines 10-18 portion reads on defining recording papers by adjusting the paper widths) a media receptacle (recording papers) above the lower portion (the bottom; col. 4, lines 14-col. 5, lines 1-18), and having a lateral opening (margin of the width reads on lateral opening facing) facing the registration surface (42; col. 4, lines 63-66).

Regarding claim 2, Hokamura discloses the printer of claim 1 wherein the media tray (cassette) is sized (size) to receive conventional letter sized media (different size recording papers) and the holder (41) is sized to receive smaller media (different size recording papers; col. 7, lines 24-33).

Regarding claim 4, Hokamura discloses the printer of claim 1 wherein the media tray (40) includes a first registration element (42) defining a surface parallel (parallel) to

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the media edge registration surface (42), and wherein the holder (41) includes a second registration element (recording paper supporting element 44) contacting (sandwiched in the context of this reference reads on contacting) the first registration element (42; col. 4, lines 14-66).

Regarding claim 5, Hokamura discloses the printer of claim 4 wherein the holder includes a lateral portion extending toward the edge registration surface and spaced apart therefrom when the first and second registration elements are in contact (col. 4, lines 14-66).

Regarding claim 6, Hokamura discloses the printer of claim 4 wherein the first and second registration elements define an elongated line of contact, such that the holder is constrained against skewed misalignment (col. 4, lines 63-col. 5, lines 1-9).

Regarding claim 7, Hokamura discloses the printer of claim 1 wherein the holder (41) includes an edge registration element (42) at least in part defining (regulating side edges of papers reads on at least in part defining) the media receptacle (recording papers), and opposite the edge registration surface (rear-edge regulating plate 44) of the tray (40), such that media (paper) is laterally constrained (regulating rear edges of the paper reads on laterally constrained) by the holder edge registration element (44) and the tray edge registration surface (42; col. 4, lines 14-66).

Regarding claim 8, Hokamura discloses the printer of claim 7 wherein the edge registration element (42) is movable (slidable) relative to the holder (41; col. 4, lines 14-66).

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Regarding claim 9, Hokamura discloses the printer of claim 7 wherein the edge registration element (42) is biased toward the tray edge registration surface (both sides of the container portion 41 reads on biased toward the tray edge registration surface; col. 4, lines 28-30).

Regarding claim 11, Hokamura discloses a media holder for a printer having a media tray with a media support surface and a media edge registration surface, the holder comprising: a body recording paper cassette 40) having a lower portion (recording papers from the bottom) contacting (supporting) the media support surface (recording paper supporting plate 44; col. 2, lines 65-68 & col. 4, lines 14-66); and the holder (containing portion 41) defining (col. 5, lines 10-18 portion reads on defining recording papers by adjusting the paper widths) a media receptacle (recording papers) above the lower portion (the bottom; col. 4, lines 14-col. 5, lines 1-18), and having a lateral opening (margin of the width reads on lateral opening facing) facing the registration surface (media edge regulating plates 42; col. 4, lines 63-66).

Regarding claim 12, Hokamura discloses the media holder of claim 11 wherein the media holder has a profile smaller than that of a conventional letter sized media, such that the holder may be received in the media tray (col. 7, lines 24-33).

Regarding claim 13, Hokamura discloses the media holder of claim 11 wherein the holder includes an elongated registration element extending in a line parallel to the registration surface of the tray (col. 4, lines 14-66).

Regarding claim 14, Hokamura discloses the media holder of claim 13 wherein the holder includes a lateral portion extending toward the edge registration surface and

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spaced apart there from when the registration element is received in a mating feature on the printer (col. 4, lines 14-66).

Regarding claim 15, Hokamura discloses the media holder (41) of claim 11 wherein the holder (41) includes an edge registration element (42) at least in part defining (regulating side edges of papers reads on at least in part defining) the media receptacle (recording papers), and opposite the edge registration surface (rear-edge regulating plate 44 reads on opposite edge registration surface) of the tray (40), such that media (papers) is laterally constrained (regulating rear edges of the paper reads on laterally constrained) by the holder edge registration element (44) and the tray edge registration surface (42; col. 4, lines 14-66).

Regarding claim 16, Hokamura discloses the media holder of claim 15 wherein the edge registration element (42) is movable (slidable) relative to the holder (41; col. 4, lines 14-66).

Regarding claim 17, Hokamura discloses the media holder of claim 15 wherein the edge registration element (42) is biased toward the tray edge registration surface (both sides of the container portion 41 reads on biased toward the tray edge registration surface; col. 4, lines 28-30).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hokamura (US Patent No. 5,328,166) in view of Mayer et al. (US Patent No. 5, 746, 528).

Regarding claim 3, Hokamura does not disclose the printer of claim 1 wherein the media tray has a first portion contained in a printer body, and a second portion extending from the printer body, wherein the media receptacle is largely received in the first portion, wherein the holder has a handle extending from the receptacle and occupying the second portion of the tray.

However, Mayer discloses the printer of claim 1 wherein the media tray has a first portion contained in a printer body, and a second portion extending from the printer body, wherein the media receptacle is largely received in the first portion, wherein the holder has a handle extending from the receptacle and occupying the second portion of the tray (col. 5, lines 33-65).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would combine the teachings of Hokamura and Mayer due to both references disclosing a paper tray for a copier/printer to provide an output tray which automatically provides a support surface for an input tray when the user is loading print media.

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8. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hokamura (US Patent No. 5,328,166) in view of Trask et al. (US Patent No. 5, 116, 034).

Regarding claim 10, Hokamura does not disclose the printer of claim 1 including a manually operable clamp for securing media in the media receptacle.

However, Trask discloses the printer of claim 1 including a manually operable clamp for securing media in the media receptacle (col. 2, lines 56-col. 3, lines 1-2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would combine the teachings of Hokamura and Trask due to both references disclosing a paper tray for a copier/printer to provide an improved envelope/sheet feed mechanism particularly adapted for inclusion in a non-impact printer.

9. Claims 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe (US Patent No. 5,287,164) in view of Mayer et al. (US Patent No. 5,746,528).

Regarding claim 18, Watanabe discloses a method of printing comprising: providing a printer (although reference discloses an electronic copying machine, it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the reference to include a printing apparatus) having a media tray (paper feed cassette) sized (cassette case 51...has a size to store...A3-sized paper) to receive a first size (maximum size) of media (paper; col. 4, lines 1-31); and positioning (lifted reads on positioning) in the tray (cassette case)

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a media holder (first and second stacking plates) containing (stored) small media (different sized paper) of a second smaller size (different sized paper; col. 4, lines 1-31).

Although Watanabe does not disclose removing the media from the tray, Mayer discloses if there is media in the tray, removing (it is obvious in this reference that a user can remove the paper from the stacking plates) the media (paper) from the tray (paper tray; col. 3, lines 51-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would combine the teachings of Watanabe and Mayer due to both references disclosing a paper tray in a printing apparatus to provide an output tray which automatically provides a support surface for an input tray when the user is loading print media.

Regarding claim 20, Watanabe discloses the method of claim 18 wherein positioning (lifted) the media holder (53 and 54) includes positioning (lifted) the entire media holder (53 and 54) and the small media (different sized paper) in the media tray (cassette case; col. 4, lines 1-31).

10. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe (US Patent No. 5,287,164) in view of Mayer et al. (US Patent No. 5,746,528) further in view of Hokamura (US Patent No. 5,328,166).

Regarding claim 19, Watanabe and Mayer do not disclose the media tray includes a edge registration surface, and wherein the step of positioning a media holder includes positioning the small media abutting the registration surface.

However, Hokamura discloses the method of claim 18 wherein the media tray (recording paper cassette 40) includes a edge registration surface (side-edge regulating plates 42), and wherein the step of positioning (slidable) a media holder (containing portion 41) includes positioning (regulating) the small media (accommodated recording papers) abutting the registration surface (regulating side edges reads on abutting the registration surface; col. 4, lines 14-66).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would combine the teachings of Watanabe, Mayer, and Hokamura due to all references disclosing a paper tray for a printer/copier apparatus to provide a recording paper cassette which can switch or adjust a recording paper size to be accommodated therein so as to realize a recording paper cassette compatible with a plurality of different paper sizes.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Gysling (US Patent No. 5,188,351) discloses a multi-size paper cassette having a sheet size indicator.

Hourtash (US Patent No. 5,901,952) discloses a paper size adjusting apparatus for a paper supply tray.

Zoltner (US Patent No. 5,863,038) discloses a paper feed tray with articulating fingers to accommodate small sized papers.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ashanti Ghee whose telephone number is (703) 306-3443. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs and alt. Fri. (7-4PM).


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly A. Williams can be reached on (703) 305-4863. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



AG
March 8, 2004

Ashanti Ghee
Examiner
Art Unit 2626


KIMBERLY WILLIAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER